

LAKELAND HILLS HOA NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING NOTES - SEPTEMBER 29, 2009



On September 29, 2009 the City of Auburn Mayor and City staff met with residents of the Lakeland Hills HOA at Roundtable Pizza, 4002 A St. SE, to discuss neighborhood concerns.

Staff in Attendance: MAYOR PETE LEWIS, COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGER DUANNA RICHARDS, COMMUNITY SERVICES PROJECT ASSISTANT KIRSTEN REYNOLDS, ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF BOB KARNOFSKI, TRANSPORTATION PLANNER CHRIS HANKINS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS VOLUNTEER ANNA MARSHALL

Community Members in Attendance: CHARLES VESTRIAG, JEFF AUSTIN, BOB KONDALSKI, GLENN ULMER, NICK AND LINDA TARBOX, TORE AND ANESTASIO MENDEZ, JON DYSINGER, KERRY RASCHLOW, GERALD ROUX, VICTOR RAMOS, RON GIROLER, PATTI RYAN, ANNE JOHNSON, CURTISS JOHNSON, KEN CACATIAN, PATTY AND LARRY MENGHINI, KEITH AND LESLIE SAVISKY, DOUG AND SUE BENDERSON, MARY JO AND ROBERT DENNIS, VIOLET NELSON, VIRGINA HAUGEN, SANDY AND DAVE PEACE, RUSTY BERGERSON, BOB GALLO, RUSS GUPPY AND RON WALKER

Welcome and Introductions

Lakeland Hills Homeowners Association President Curtiss Johnson opened the meeting, welcomed everyone and introduced Mayor Pete Lewis. Mayor Lewis thanked the HOA for inviting staff to the meeting and had City staff to introduce themselves. The Mayor then indicated the primary purpose of the meeting was for the City to listen to the residents' concerns, consider solutions, respond to questions they could answer immediately and identify items for follow up. The City takes notes of the meeting, which are then sent out to the attendees. Mayor Lewis discussed the following topics:

- **Mayor's Update** -- residents were encouraged to sign up for the Mayor's Update, an e-newsletter Mayor Lewis sends out every Friday about what's taken place in the City during the week, upcoming events, etc. He also uses the listserv to send out alerts about road closures, emergencies, etc. as a way to keep the community informed. Since this is a listserv, if you decide you don't want to continue receiving it you can unsubscribe at any time.

General Questions/Comments/Flooding

- **How do you become part of Clean Sweep?**
Mayor Lewis explained that Clean Sweep started seven years ago when the City decided the Downtown area needed to be cleaned up. It was a huge effort, approximately 900 people showed up to help. At the end of the event people asked what next year's project area was going to be, and what had started as a one time event has turned into an annual tradition that has spread all over the city. Since then the City has organized 40 blocks of shrubs to be planted along A Street to shield the ugly train yard, 300 miles of streets of graffiti were covered and continue to be kept up; Auburn is a place that cares and we won't stand for graffiti in our neighborhoods, community or city.

Several Lakeland Hills residents expressed they would like to propose a Clean Sweep project for their neighborhood. They suggested Kennedy Street because it has been neglected and really needs the attention. Mayor explained a cleanup can be organized by residents any time of the year or they can wait and apply for a special project site during the annual Clean Sweep effort. Staff will get information to the group regarding how to sign up for the annual Clean Sweep event.

- ***Who owns the land where the power lines run through the neighborhood?***

There are issues with overgrown vegetation and dog waste on the trail where power lines run from 51st St. SE up to Lakeland Hills Way.

- ***Why was the Howard Hanson Dam allowed to fall apart?***

Mayor Lewis clarified there is nothing physically wrong with the dam; when the Dam was completed in 1961 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers tied the structure into a 100 year old landslide embankment. During the 2009 storm season a huge amount of water was held back to prevent flooding in the valley, pressure from the massive amount of water created depressions in the embankment which started the investigation and has led up to our current situation.

The Corps has said they cannot raise the level of the pool as they have done before until they've figured out how to fix the issue and find the money to fix it. An easy fix could take 2-4 years. In the meantime the Corps is constructing a grout curtain within the abutment of the dam to reduce seepage through a critical area of concern, as well as performing drainage improvement work to route water into the drainage tunnel. Work is expected to be done by November 1st.

The Corps has agreed to purchase and pre-position flood fighting supplies and materials for the Green River Valley in preparation for the upcoming flood season. The Corps will support State and local efforts to include:

- Purchase approximately 400,000 sand bags and 45,000 lineal feet of expedient flood barrier products.
- Pre-position flood fighting materials within the Seattle District and make them available for loan to protect river levees and ensure that these materials are available if further flooding occurs, well in advance of flood conditions.
- Continue to provide technical assistance to the State and local agencies, including continuous review of flood risk, identification of additional actions based on changing field conditions, and advice and/or recommendations for the proposed secondary measures.
- Work with U.S. Geological Survey and the National Weather Service to investigate immediate improvements of early flood warning systems.

Messages will be posted on the City's website and the news paper will continue to have information sharing articles. There's a lot more to this in all of the planning and work that must be done in anticipation of an event that hasn't happened here since 1961; we will work at keeping everyone informed. We must depend on you to be watching, listening and asking as well.

The City has been working since last February to be ready for potential flooding. We are hoping for a dry winter and that diverting water will work. Recovery efforts have been planned out for if/when flooding does occur. The State, Green River Valley Cities, school districts and utility companies have been working together to be ready for this event.

Public Safety Related Questions/Comments

- ***What should residents do if they have graffiti?***

Mayor Lewis explained graffiti needs to be removed as quickly as possible; gangs have been known to use graffiti to mark their territory for recruitment and claiming turf. The quicker residents can react by removing graffiti the better; removing the graffiti decreases the chances of a gang and/or troubled youth behavior occurring in your neighborhood.

Property owners and neighborhoods repetitively struggle with graffiti. Auburn City Code requires property owners to remove graffiti within 15 days; a new Graffiti Removal Assistance Program was created in partnership with Parker Paint to help property owners take action. If neighborhoods are having graffiti problems they should call the City's Code Enforcement Division to report the problem at (253) 931-3090 or call the new Graffiti Hotline (253) 931-3048 Ext. 7, the officer will open a case and call your information into Parker Paint. Residents can go to the Parker Paint in Auburn to pick up supplies to cover the graffiti.

In addition, Auburn City Council enacted a spray paint law that doesn't allow anyone under 18 years old to purchase spray paint. Individuals caught near a graffiti site with graffiti tools may also subject to arrest under the new Council ordinance. Another program being explored is to have juveniles previously caught doing graffiti participate in community service specifically focused on graffiti clean up.

- ***If you have a problem or see anything suspicious call 9-1-1!***

Residents were encouraged to report everything to 9-1-1. The citizens of Auburn own the 9-1-1 system. You should call 9-1-1 whenever you have an emergency, feel something suspicious is going on, need to speak with an officer or file a report (online reporting is also available www.auburnwa.gov/Emergency/Police/Citizen_Online_Police_Reporting.asp if you would prefer to file your report that way). **PLEASE NOTE:** If calling from a cell phone you need to ask for an "Auburn Call Receiver."

Auburn shares ownership of the 9-1-1 system with other South King County cities and the calls go to a dispatch center so residents shouldn't worry about tying up the phone line when making non-emergency calls. When you call 9-1-1 it will be answered by a "Call Receiver." The Call Receiver will determine whether or not your call is an emergency to be handled right away or to have an officer make contact with you to file a non-emergency report. They will ask questions which are specifically designed to obtain information so that the proper response can be made for your call.

If you want to know what the officer finds out be sure to let the Call Receiver know you DO want to be contacted by the officer when they've completed their investigation.

In addition to emergency issues, residents should also call 9-1-1 for non-emergency issues such as street lights out, stop lights out, missing stop signs, fireworks, loose dogs, sewer backups, water leaks, etc. An alternative is to report them via the City website. The link is under Online Services at the top of the page and is called Online Citizen Report (half way down): www.auburnwa.gov/Business/public_works/Online_Citizen_Report.asp.

- ***How to know where crimes are happening - Online Crime Mapping***

The City of Auburn launched an online crime mapping tool that allows citizens to view reported criminal activity throughout the city with near real-time data. The service is provided by CrimeReports.com and is free to the public.

Using this website, citizens can get easy-to-read incident crime maps from data that is uploaded directly from the Auburn Police Department's activity reports. Crime incident data typically includes: Incident type, date, location, distance from citizen's address, event identification/case number, and/or brief crime incident description. The reported location of registered sex offenders will also be provided on the map. Citizens can also sign up to receive automatic daily, weekly or monthly email alerts if/when crimes occur near their home, office, local school, etc. and tools such as filters and analytics will allow citizens to search for specific crimes in their area, or to view trends via charts and graphs.

CrimeReports.com can be accessed via the City's website (www.auburnwa.gov/crimereports). This enhancement, coupled with the already existing online police reporting service that was launched in 2007 allowing citizens to file non-emergency reports, is one more way the City is using technology to increase public safety and awareness. For more information on these services, contact the City of Auburn Police Department at (253) 931-3080.

- ***Get Prepared with Block Watch and Map Your Neighborhood***

Block Watch is built on the concept of neighbors watching out for each other because you know better than anyone else who belongs in your neighborhood and who doesn't. If you think "maybe I should call 9-1-1 about this," you should. Residents were encouraged to set up a Block Watch. Once the group is formed, Community Programs Officer Andy Gould will come out to do the formal training on what to watch for, how to react and how to get neighborhood participation. Groups are encouraged to get together several times a year to maintain an active group.

As part of the Block Watch training residents will also learn about an Emergency Preparedness program called Map Your Neighborhood; neighbors are taught how to get organized before a disaster happens. Generalized disaster preparedness training is also available to interested community groups and organizations. To schedule any of these classes for your neighborhood, contact (253) 876-1925 or e-mail emergencyprep@auburnwa.gov; you can also visit their website to see a training schedule: <http://www.auburnwa.gov/disaster>.

- ***Is there a gang problem in Auburn?***

Auburn has seen some gang activity occurring but in comparison to surrounding communities the issues are not widespread. Mayor Lewis explained the City has had regular meetings about preventing gang activity with the Auburn School District Superintendent Kip Herron. The City and the School District have also formed a Gang Prevention Task Force to prevent the rise of gang activity.

Streets/Sewer/Traffic Related Questions/Comments

• Save-Our-Streets (SOS)

When the residents of Auburn passed the Save Our Streets (SOS) Program Mayor Lewis vowed to repave all the local streets in Auburn. The program has been progressive. The City is responsible for maintaining 211 miles of streets of which 119 miles are local streets.

Every four years the City inspects the pavement condition of every local street. Based on this inspection, streets are put into one of four condition categories: good, fair, poor, and very poor. Pavement in good condition typically does not need any major maintenance work. Pavement in fair and poor condition typically requires some type of maintenance work (like resurfacing) that will help preserve the existing pavement. Pavement in very poor condition is typically unsalvageable and must be completely removed and replaced. Currently, Auburn has approximately 89 miles of local streets in good condition. The City focuses on preserving streets in fair and poor condition first because these streets will be considerably more expensive to repair in the future. During the first four years of the SOS Program, 30 miles of local streets were resurfaced.

After the 2008 SOS Program, a significant portion of the streets in fair and poor condition were treated. Starting in 2009, the SOS Program has begun rebuilding the streets in very poor condition. More information about the program can be found by contacting (253) 804-5086.

Summary of Solutions Discussed/Action Items

1. Get Clean Sweep information to residents on how to sign up for hosting a Clean Sweep site.
2. Staff to research who owns the trail where the power lines are located.

Community Services Team Contact Information:

- Duanna Richards, Community Services Manager, (253) 931-3099, or drichards@auburnwa.gov
- Kirsten Reynolds, Community Services Project Assistant, (253) 876-1964, or kreynolds@auburnwa.gov